

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038048

FOLLOWING REPEATS GENEVA 1090 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BELGRADE BONN

CANBERRA TOKYO 16 FEB

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1090

TOKYO AND CANBERRA FOR AMB SILBERMAN, DEPARTMENT PASS LABOR FOR
SEGALL AND AVERY.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO: AORG

SUBJ: POSSIBLE SOVIET DEAL IN ILO GOVERNING BODY AND CONFERENCE

CHAIRMANSHIPS IN JUNE 1976

1. FRG MISSION IN GENEVA HAS INFORMALLY PASSED WORD TO USDEL
THAT OFFICER OF USSR GENEVA MISSION SUGGESTED USSR WOULD NOT
CONTEST FRG CANDIDACY FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BODY IF
WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD ENTER COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT
EASTERN EUROPEAN AS EUROPE'S CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNING BODY
CHAIRMANSHIP WHEN EUROPE'S TURN FOR THAT OFFICE AGAIN COMES UP
FOUR YEARS HENCE, I.E. IN JUNE 1980.

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2. USDEL INQUIRED OF FRG MISSION OFFICER WHETHER SUGGESTED

DEAL WAS LIMITED TO SOLELY TO GB CHAIRMANSHIP, OR WHETHER IT ALSO INCLUDED WILLINGNESS BY USSR NOT TO CONTEST ANY WESTERN EUROPEAN CANDIDACY FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE 1976 ILO CONFERENCE. USDEL NOTED THAT IF THE DEAL WERE LIMITED ONLY TO THE GB CHAIRMANSHIP, THE USSR WOULD NOT BE OFFERING ANYTHING, INASMUCH AS THE USSR WELL KNOWS AN EE CANDIDATE FOR THE GB CHAIRMANSHIP WOULD BE CERTAIN TO LOSE IN A CONTEST WITH THE ALREADY ANNOUNCED FRG CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE.

3. FRG MISSION OFFICER RESPONDED THAT THE PRESIDENCY OF THE 1976 ILO CONFERENCE WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN THE DISCUSSION INITIATED BY THE USSR MISSION OFFICER. HE ELABORATED THAT THE INTENT OF THE USSR IN RESPECT TO THE INCLUSION OR EXCLUSION OF THE 1976 ILO CONFERENCE PRESIDENCY WAS UNCLEAR. HE INDICATED THAT IN REPORTING THE DISCUSSION TO BONN, THE FRG MISSION IS MAKING THE POINT THAT UNLESS THE USSR MEANT TO INCLUDE THE CONFERENCE PRESIDENCY IN THE DEAL, SHOULD THAT DEAL BECOME A MATTER WHICH THE WE GOVERNMENTS WOULD WISH TO EXPLORE FURTHER WITH THE USSR, THE USSR WOULD BE OFFERING NOTHING IN AGREEING NOT TO OPPOSE THE FRG CANDIDACY, BECAUSE SUCH CANDIDATE WOULD BE CERTAIN OF DEFEAT IN THE ELECTION BY THE TRIPARTITE GOVERNING BODY OF ITS CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR JUNE 1976 TO JUNE 1977.

4. COMMENT: FRG MISSION OFFICER HAD NO WAY OF JUDGING WHETHER THIS APPROACH BY USSR MISSION OFFICER WAS A PERSONAL FEELER OR REPRESENTED SOVIET POLICY. WERE THIS OFFER TO INCLUDE AN AGREEMENT TO FIELD NO REPEAT NO EE CANDIDACY FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE 1976 ILO CONFERENCE IN EXCHANGE FOR A WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT AN EASTERN EUROPEAN CANDIDATE AS EUROPE'S CANDIDATE FOR THE GB CHAIRMANSHIP IN 1980, THIS WOULD REPRESENT A PROPOSITION WHICH THE WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD FIND EXCEEDINGLY ATTRACTIVE. SUCH A DEAL WOULD AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EASTERN EUROPEAN PRESIDENCY OF THE CONFERENCE BEFORE THE EXPIRY OF THE NOTICE PERIOD OF THE US LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW, AND AT THE SAME TIME WOULD INVOLVE A WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMITMENT WHICH FALLS SO FAR IN THE FUTURE (1980), THAT THE WESTERN EUROPEANS COULD RATIONALIZE THEIR INTERESTS IN MAKING SUCH A COMMITMENT AS NOT RPT NOT A REFUSAL ON THEIR PART TO SUPPORT US OBJECTIVES AS ARTICULATED IN ITS LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW
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FROM THE ILO ON NOV 6, 1977. END COMMENT.

5. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT THE USG SHOULD IMMEDIATELY OPPOSE WE ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH A DEAL, USDEL HAS NOT SENT THIS MESSAGE TO OTHER EUROPEAN CAPITALS, BUT THOUGHT IT PREFERABLE TO LEAVE THAT DECISION TO THE DEPARTMENT, AFTER CONSIDERING ANY VIEWS AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN MAY WISH TO EXPRESS. BRUNGART
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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